

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1. PRAIRE TRAIL-MODERATE — 2 miles. Starts in the open but soon gets into the largest wood lot in the park. Hikers will see areas of oak-hickory mixed with cherry, ash, and areas of beech-maple mix. The topography includes uplands and low glacial depressions. The remainder of the trail is across open rolling established prairie with views of the lake.
- 2. CAMPGROUND-MODERATE — 1.25 miles. Starts in the small oak-hickory woods with a glacial depression that stays wet year-round. The trail then goes through some scrub growth on the edge of the fields and then into open fields across rolling terrain with excellent views of the lake.
- 3. BEACH TRAIL-EASY — .9 mile. The beach trail starts in a small wooded lot. The trees include maple, oak, and cherry. The remainder of the trail is mostly open with views of the lake across rolling topography.
- 4. SELF GUIDED NATURE TRAIL-MODERATE — .75 mile. The trail begins in a field of prairie grasses punctuated with the bright colors of wild-flowers in the summer. It winds through a meadow with young tulip trees, second growth shrubs and a wet area with a short boardwalk. The trail ends with a scenic view of the lake. Hikers may see waterfowl, swallows and other water-loving birds, depending on the season. A bench along the path offers a quiet resting place for birdwatching.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

Please stay on marked trails. Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BOATS—Rental rowboats, paddle boats, and canoes are available by the hour or day. Privately owned boats may be launched. Outboard motors are permitted to operate at idle speed only.

CAMPING—Campground is equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy is limited to two weeks (14 days). Sites will accommodate trailers. All sites are Class “A”.

CONCESSIONS—Located at the beach.

FISHING—Fishing is allowed away from the beach area. A state license is required. No fishing is permitted on the beach during its operating hours of 11 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

HIKING—Easy to moderate marked trails are available for hiking all year.

INTERPRE TIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—A seasonal naturalist will be available from Mid-May through August. Hikes, Junior Naturalist and Hoosier Ecologist Programs will be offered. You will also find cultural arts activities scheduled on many summer weekends.

PICNIC AREAS—Tables, grills, toilet facilities, and playground are available.

SHELTER HOUSE—The Harvey Shelter and Sunset Shelter may be reserved for gatherings.

SWIMMING—Swimming is permitted only when a lifeguard is on-duty. There is no charge for swimming. The bathhouse and beach open the Saturday before Memorial Day and operate no later than Labor Day.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to such places and times as designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles must remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors prohibited, except on the swimming beach with permit.
- Park closes from 11:00 PM until 7:00 AM, and no one is allowed in the park, except for campers using their sites between these hours.
- Outboard motors to be operated at idle speed only.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Summit Lake State Park
5993 N. Messick Rd.
New Castle, Indiana 47362-9309
Call: (765) 766-5873
DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

SUMMIT LAKE STATE PARK



On January 9, 1988, Summit Lake State Park joined a tradition nearly 75 years old as it became Indiana's 19th State Park. Here you will find 2,680 acres including a 800 acre lake, shady wooded areas, and lots of open space. Wildlife photographers and bird watchers will happily discover many woodland animals and 100 species of birds residing here.

Fishing is good for bass, sunfish, crappie, yellow perch and channel catfish. Boat rentals include paddle boats, rowboats and canoes. You may launch your own craft at one of three boat ramps. Our large swimming beach is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. A modern bathhouse and concession building, including restrooms, is located at the beach.

Three hiking trails offer a good view of the lake. All campsites are Class A with electric and water hook-ups.

In the 1950s, Henry County residents began to talk of a recreational facility close to home and by 1966 the Big Blue River Conservancy District began to make this dream a reality. Besides recreation, the group's goals included flood control along the Big Blue River, waterway improvement and a recreational facility.

Construction of the flood control structure at the headwaters of the Big Blue River that would create Summit Lake began in the mid-1970's. The gates of the dam closed in 1980 and the man-made lake began to fill. In 1988, following several years of planning and construction, the Big Blue River Recreation Area was sold to the state of Indiana and became the 19th state park. The park was renamed Summit Lake State Park, taking its name from being located at the highest elevation in the surrounding area and near the highest elevation in the state.

Present day visitors will find an array of habitats at Summit Lake. Historically, the area now known as Summit Lake State Park was primarily forested. J. Hendricks, surveyor, wrote in 1821 that the area in the western portion of the park was prairie and wet prairie lands. Located just north of the town of New Castle and U.S. 36, the combination of the 800 acre lake, woodlands, old fields, wetlands and prairie restoration areas at Summit Lake State Park allows for an abundant array of flora and fauna species to occur. Bird watchers will be especially delighted to find the variety of interesting bird species reported during the migratory seasons or as resident species. Some unusual bird species that have been observed include the Marsh Wren, Least Bittern, American Bittern, King Rail, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Black Tern and Great Egret.

Summit Lake State Park is also the home of Henry Count's only dedicated Nature Preserve. Ziegler Woods Nature Preserve is located in the southwest corner of the park. Given to the state by the Nature Conservancy, the preserve is reflective of pre-settlement Indiana's native mesic upland forest communities. Ziegler Woods presents a rich exhibit of flora and fauna with little evidence of human disturbance. Unfortunately, such areas are becoming increasingly rare.